

NEW DESCRIPTIONS

A NEW SPECIES OF *ACANTHASPIS* AMY. & SERV. (HETEROPTERA: REDUVIIDAE) FROM SOUTH INDIA¹

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(With a text-figure)

INTRODUCTION

Acanthaspis Amy. & Serv. is a well represented genus of the subfamily Reduviinae with thirty nine species from Indian Faunal limits alone (Distant 1902, 1910 and Capriles 1990). The present study adds one more species to this genus based on the examination of micropterous female collected by me from Surulitheertham, South India. This species resembles *Physorhynchus coprologus* described by Annandale (1906) and *Acanthaspis pedestris* Stål (Distant 1902). But *P. coprologus* was considered as an immature form of *Acanthaspis* sp. by Distant (1910) and later as an apterous *Acanthaspis* reduviid by Bergroth (1911). But examination of this species reveals that this reduviid belongs to the genus *Acanthaspis*. Moreover it is neither apterous nor immature but it is a micropterous adult. It can be also differentiated from *A. pedestris* by its prominent black colour and larger size (almost 1.5 times that of *A. pedestris*). Hence it is described as a new species of *Acanthaspis*, namely *A. nigricans*.

Acanthaspis nigricans sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Type: FEMALE: total length 17.0 mm; width across compound eyes 2.0 mm; width across middle of pronotum 3.5 mm width across middle of abdomen 14.0 mm; black;

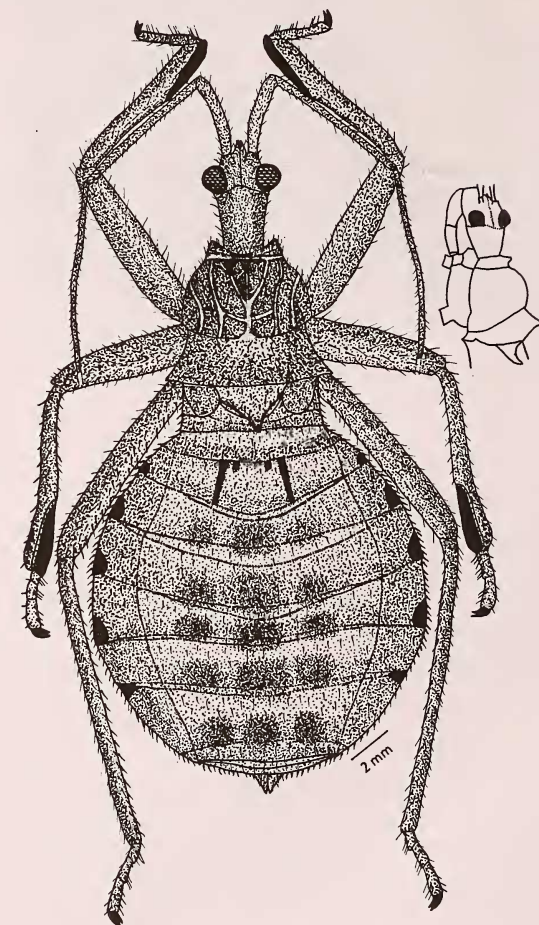


Fig. 1. *Acanthaspis nigricans* sp. nov. Entire dorsal view and head and thorax lateral view.

antennal and tibiae ferruginous; connexival spots yellow; micropterous.

Head oblong, compound eyes slightly laterally protruded, transverse behind eye; postocular area slightly longer than the centrally and longitudinally impressed an-

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teocular area; antennae slender, scape robust outwardly deflexed and shorter than pedicel; rostrum moderately curved; first and second segments subequal in length and the terminal segment the shortest.

Pronotum unicolourous, transverse behind the middle; anterior lobe little raised, strongly sculptured and medially impressed and posterior lobe strongly rugulose; scutellar spine erect, antero-lateral angles subprominent and posterolateral angles spinously prominent; fore and mid legs subequal in length and hind legs the longest; fore and mid tibiae bear tibial pads; tarsus three segmented and the third segment the longest; legs strongly longly pilose.

Abdomen rounded, segmental sutures prominent; connexivum a little flattened and spotted; abdomen concave above and convex beneath.

Type information: Holotype: FEMALE; Locality: Surulitheertham near Cumbum, South India on 9.5.1988 by the author. Allotype and paratypes not known. The holotype is deposited in the collections of Entomology Research Unit, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayankottai (N.D. No. 12).

Etymology: This species is named *Acanthaspis nigricans* due to its prominent black colour.

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A NEW SPECIES OF *RHAPHIDOSOMA* (HETEROPTERA-REDUVIIDAE-HARPACTORINAE) FROM WESTERN GHATS¹

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(With a text-figure)

Rhaphidosoma madukaraiensis a new species from the Western Ghats has been described and illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Rhaphidosoma* Amyot & Ser-

ville, is characterized by the elongate head, linear body, aptery, the second rostral segment about five times as long as the first, antennae much shorter than the body and the scutellum obscurely formed. Bergroth (1893) recorded one species, namely *R. atkinsoni*

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